

Issue Analysis Lesson Plan

Subject Areas: All subjects

Grade Levels: 7 – 12 (ages 12 - 18)

Time: At least two 45-minute class periods; time outside of class as necessary.

Lesson Objective:

Students will explore multiple perspectives on an issue and provide supporting arguments to defend their position.

Common Core State Standards¹:

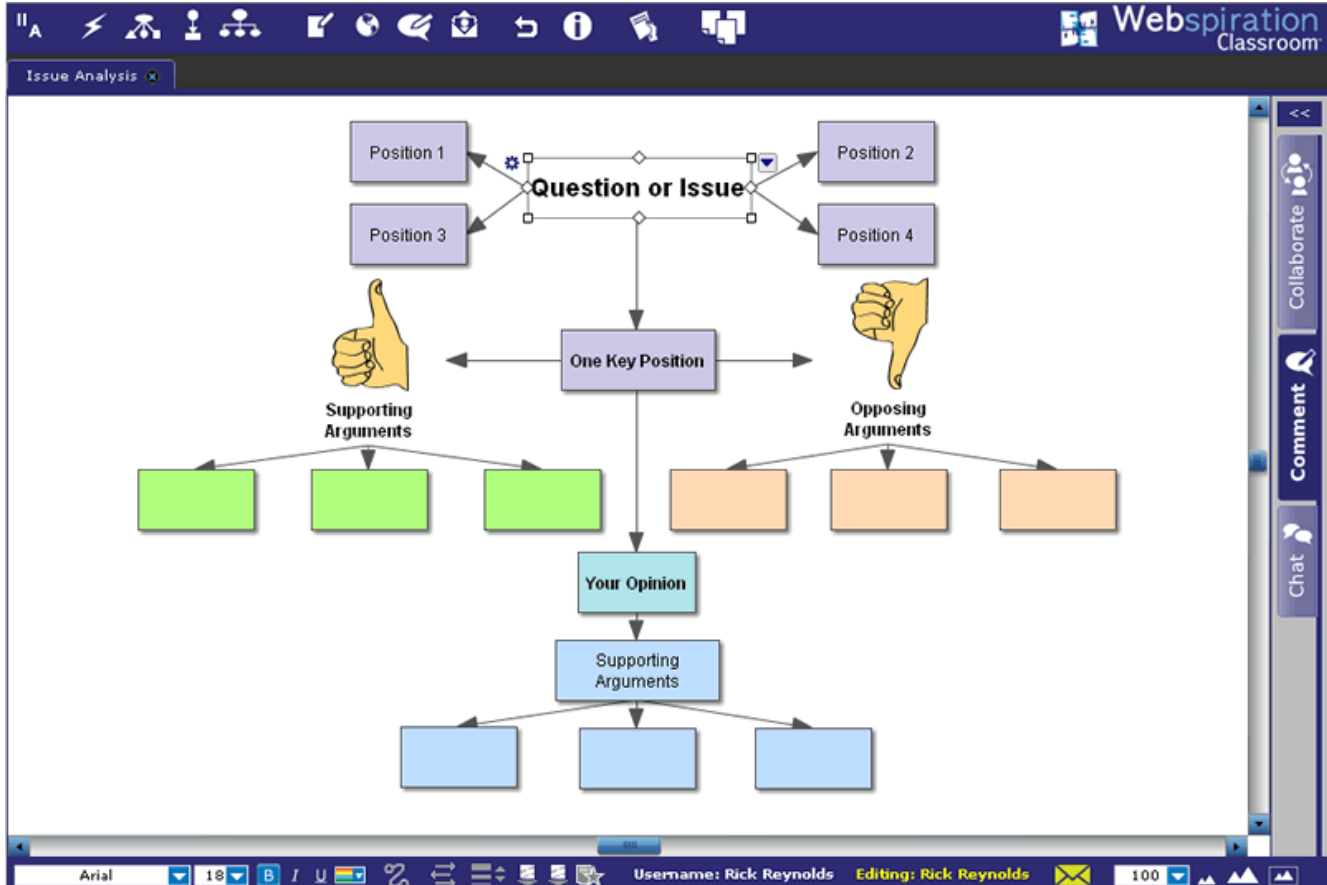
College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing:

Standard 1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Standard 6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Overview:

Help your students to think critically about an issue by using the *Issue Analysis* template (**Webspiration Classroom™ Starter>Starter Docs>Thinking & Planning>Issue Analysis**). Students will choose an issue and conduct research to determine the varying positions on it. Then they will choose one key position to evaluate and conclude the exercise by stating their own opinion and providing arguments to support it.

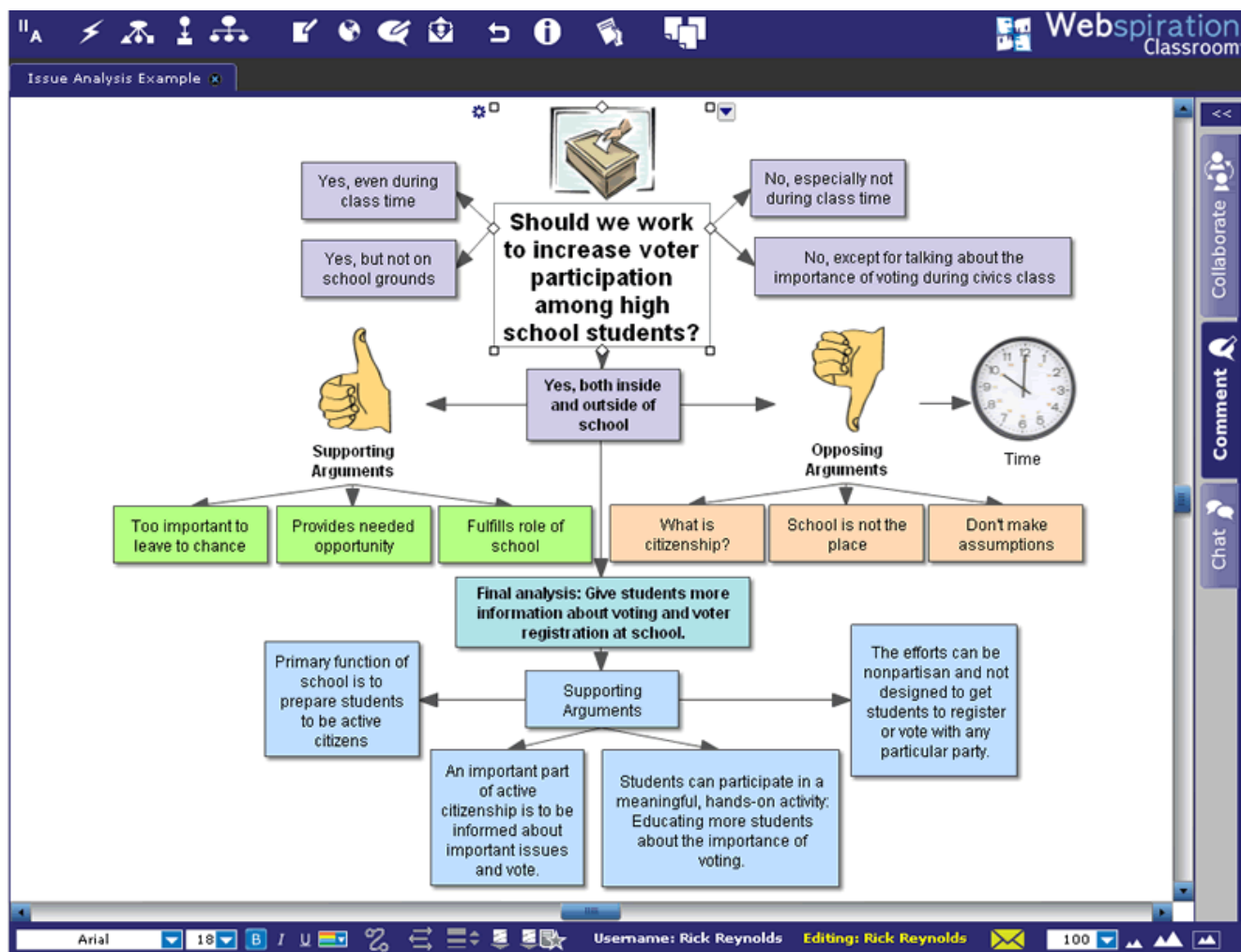



Preparation:

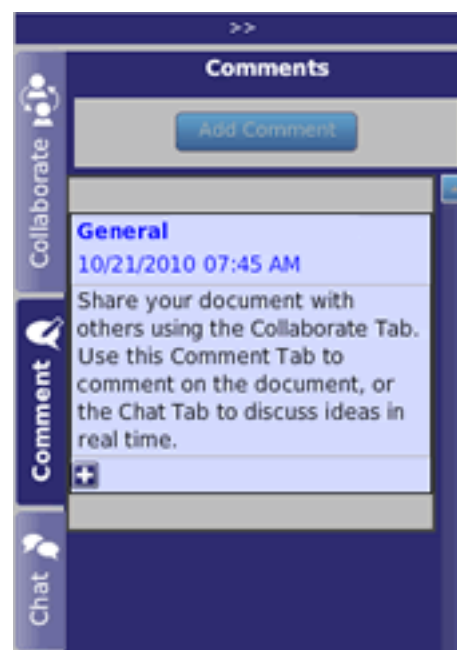
- This lesson requires Internet access and the Webspiration Classroom software application published by Inspiration® Software, Inc. It can be accessed by visiting <http://www.webspirationclassroom.com>.
- Access to library resources would also be helpful for student research.

Lesson:


1. Engage students with a brief discussion of a controversial issue. For example, in a civics class the issue could be whether or not it is appropriate to try to increase voter participation among high school seniors.
2. Open the *Issue Analysis* template and record an issue and a few of the student perspectives in the area at the top of the diagram. Explain the rest of the diagram to the students and be sure they understand how to add and/or delete **Symbols** if necessary. Demonstrate how more visual information can be added to the diagram using the **Symbol Libraries**.
3. Optional: Open the example file (**Webspiration Classroom Starter>Examples>Thinking & Planning>Issue Analysis Example**) and talk the students through it so students have a better idea of a completed diagram.



4. Be sure to point out how additional information can be added in **Notes**. Demonstrate how notes can be shown by clicking the **Note Quick Controls**  in the upper-right corner of symbols with the notes. All notes in a diagram can be shown quickly at the same time in **Outline View**.
5. Explain that students may need to conduct research throughout the process to gather information which can be added to the diagram. **Hyperlinks** can be used to link to important facts on the Internet.
6. Students can obtain feedback from the teacher and their peers using the collaboration tools. Documents can be shared with others using the **Collaborate** tab. The **Comment** tab can be used to comment on the document, or the **Chat** tab can be used, if it is turned on at your school, to discuss ideas in real time.



Adaptations / Extensions:

- Have students “publish” their work by making presentations about the issues and their positions to the class. A data projector or interactive whiteboard could be used, if one is available, to display diagrams as visual aids. Subtopics can be hidden or viewed using the **Subtopic Quick Controls**  to allow focused attention on the topics being discussed.
- Students can download their project to Inspiration® or a word processor, or transfer it to a Google Doc, to complete a written essay about their issues and positions. Other Webspiration Classroom templates can be used to help students with the writing process, such as the *Essay Planner* template: **Webspiration Classroom Starter>Starter Docs>English Language Arts>Essay Planner**. See also the example: **Webspiration Classroom Starter>Examples>English Language Arts>Essay Planner Example**.
- Various other Webspiration Classroom templates can be used in conjunction with this exercise. For example, if you would like students to make persuasive speeches about their positions on the issues, the *Persuasive Speech Plan* template could be used: **Webspiration Classroom Starter>Starter Docs>English Language Arts>Persuasive Speech Plan**. See also the example: **Webspiration Classroom Starter>Examples>English Language Arts>Persuasive Speech Plan Example**.

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